



A true gentleman | Page 7



Jeff Lang, president of Industrial Accident Victims Group of Ontario.

Foreign workers will receive injury pay at home

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's new measures to help foreign agricultural workers recover from an on-the-job-injury is a good move, but doesn't go far enough, says the Industrial Accident Victims Group of Ontario.

On May 15, the board announced that it had completed a nine-month review of its practices and that measures are now in place to offer benefits to workers who are injured on the job to include those who have to leave the country while on the mend.

"These are some of the most vulnerable people working in Ontario today and we owe it to them to be there if they get hurt on the job," said Jeff Lang, president and CEO of the board, in a press release.

"These are people who come to work on our farms, grow our food, and contribute to our economy. If they

Continued on Page 3

Rand Estate hearings will resume in July

Evan Loree
The Lake Report

A provincial hearing that could decide the fate of development on the Rand Estate is on hiatus until later this summer.

The Ontario Land Tribunal has been hearing submissions about Solmar Development Corp.'s proposal to build a 193-unit subdivision on the historic Rand Estate since April 9.

The hearings are scheduled to resume on July 29, according to a schedule on the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Join the Conversation page for the Rand Estate.

The Save Our Rand

Estate group, a residents organization participating in the hearings, will present the remainder of its witnesses to the tribunal for cross-

Continued on Page 2



The Rand Estate.

Stampede goes 'round again

Thin crowds Saturday, but a busy Monday and packed fireworks show



Olivia and James Pozzebon on fire truck ride at the Virgil Stampede on Saturday. While crowds were thin on Saturday, organizers say it might have been a record-breaking year for attendance. **More Stampede coverage on pages 4, 5 and 10.** DAVE VAN DE LAAR



DR. BROWN

When those we trust cross the line into elder abuse

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Beginnings and endings mirror one another in life.

At birth babies are nearly defenceless and despite a brain with an enormous

built-in capacity for learning, it takes many years before they're fully capable of responsibly looking after themselves, never mind anyone else.

At the other end of life, it's all too often the reverse:

the later years are characterized by a steady erosion of memory, cognitive skills and the social intelligence needed to navigate an increasingly perilous life for those tasked with looking after themselves and some-

times an even more vulnerable partner.

It's the loss of the mental wherewithal to accurately read the intentions of others that make appropriate decisions, which together with physical frailty, can make

the later years so challenging for seniors.

It also renders them vulnerable to manipulation, neglect and abuse by others.

The later sometimes in-

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Debate over **vehicle access** continues

Continued from Front Page

examination before the town makes its case.

Brendan Stewart, a landscape architect advocating for an alternative site plan pitched by SORE, testified May 15.

Solmar's proposed road access, which would go through an existing entrance in the wall at 200 John St. E., is "too problematic," he said in his witness statement.

He said the same of Solmar's proposed emergency entrance to the subdivision, off Charlotte Street near the Upper Canada Heritage Trail.

Solmar lawyer Mark Flowers pressed him on the issue.

"Maybe it's non-viable, maybe there's no option that's viable," Stewart said.

"If there's no option that's viable, then there's no development? Correct?" Flowers asked.

"I suppose," Stewart said.

In his witness statement, Stewart said the emergency entrance at Charlotte is not an option because it would require redeveloping part



The historic Rand Estate is the site of an ongoing legal dispute which will determine how the site is developed for the future. EVAN LOREE

of the heritage trail into a roadway.

And the entrance on John Street doesn't work because of how it affects the estates' heritage features, like a sunken garden, designed by famed landscape architects Lorrie Dunnington and Howard Grubb, he said.

SORE proposes the best place to build a vehicle entrance to the Rand Estate is between 144 and 176 John St.

"Any of these access alternatives is going to have some impact," Flowers said.

Stewart agreed.

"Redevelopment is the vehicle to conserve this important site," he said.

Flowers asked if preventing development would therefore jeopardize the heritage assets, prompting Stewart to reiterate his concerns with Solmar's proposed access.

Last Thursday, the tribunal heard testimony from SORE experts, who spoke about sewage servicing plans for the future subdivision.

Tara Chisholm, an engineering expert retained by SORE, said Solmar's sewage servicing plans were inadequate.

The company plans to dispose of sewage using pumping stations.

In her witness statement, Chisholm said these "should only be used when there are no other feasible options for gravity servicing."

Solmar initially considered using gravity sewers, said Fedor Tchourkine, an engineer retained by Solmar.

In his reply statement to Chisholm, he said those plans had to be revised because there were concerns about raising the landscape high enough to accommodate the sewers.

Learn & Live session to feature **veterans'** lessons from service

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

mine was in the army,"
Maisonneuve told The Lake Report.

Next week's Learn & Live session will offer a glimpse into the important life lessons learned through military and police service.

On Monday, May 27, Peter Warrack, Lt.-Gen. Michel Maisonneuve and his wife, Maj. Barbara Maisonneuve, will discuss their experiences in various military and police careers. Mike Balsom will moderate.

Michel Maisonneuve, who has spent more than three decades of his life dedicated to public service, said the discussion will provide unique perspectives from people with different military careers.

"Each of us comes from a different part of the military or paramilitary forces," he said.

"Peter is an ex-policeman as well, my wife was in the air force and, of course, she is a woman so her experience was different than

Maisonneuve said Warrack approached him and his wife to join the session and tell their stories.

He said they will share lessons learned throughout their careers that are not just applicable to those with military experience, "but to the civilian world as well."

The session will differ from the usual Learn & Live format as it will be held in the Simpson Room at the NOTL Community Centre from 1 to 4 p.m., leaving time for discussion.

There are still spaces left for Monday's session. Register on the NOTL Public Library's website.

June 10 will mark the last Learn & Live of the season, with a special presentation from the Shaw Festival's Kimberly Rampersad on how to direct a play for the theatre.

Spots for this session can also be reserved on the library's website.

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Foggy morning at sailing club



On Sunday morning, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club was shrouded in a thick fog that lasted through much of the day. It made visibility difficult for sailors and motorists. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Move is a good step, say advocates

Continued from Front Page

get hurt while they do it, the (board) is also changing how it reviews suitable available work in the job market," he said.

Previously, if a temporary foreign worker was injured on the job and could not return to their original position, the obligation from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board — as the board itself previously interpreted the legislation — was to adjust their income replacement payments based on suitable and available work only in Ontario.

The issue, however, is that temporary foreign workers must leave the country when injured because current visa requirements do not accommodate mobility of employment — they cannot change jobs.

As a result of the board's review, its replacement payment policy has now been amended.

"Effective immediately, that obligation is now being interpreted to mean suitable and available work in the person's home job market," stated the press release.

This means workers can return to their home country and have benefits reviewed on the basis of available and



Temporary foreign worker Robert Palmer of Jamaica prunes a fruit tree in NOTL. New WSIB regulations will now see workers receive injury and illness benefits even if they must return to their home countries. RICHARD WRIGHT

suitable work there.

While applauding that change, Industrial Accident Victims Group of Ontario has its own interpretation of who will qualify for these out-of-country benefits.

It believes there will still be thousands of temporary workers who will not qualify for a home-market benefit payment review if they are forced to leave.

"It is a good first step," said Jessica Ponting, a community legal worker with the victims group. "But the (board) needs to include all migrant workers employed under the Temporary For-

eign Workers Program. It doesn't get them all, it gets some."

The "some," Ponting said, are workers who do seasonal agricultural work.

These are workers required to leave the country following each growing season by the middle of December.

The "all," she added, are other temporary foreign workers who work in primary agriculture but are not required to leave the country in December.

"They come on a different Temporary Foreign Worker Program because they are

not seasonal," she said.

"They are usually two multiple-year contracts but they are still temporary, and they are still tied to (one) employer," she said. "There is no labour mobility. So behind the logic of the (board) decision, it should apply to them as well."

The topic of labour mobility, however, is on the federal government's radar.

In a report obtained by The Lake Report in late April, the feds have proposed changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program that will allow for labour mobility.

This will allow temporary foreign workers to change jobs without having to apply for new work permits, giving workers more control over selecting the jobs and employers they want to work for after arriving in Canada without threat of repercussions.

However, the federal government is planning a phased-in approach to the changes — though, not before holding a number of face-to-face meetings with stakeholders.

It is expected this process will take up to three years before anything on the topic becomes law.

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Above: Crowds were thin throughout Saturday at the Virgil Stampede, but organizers say it could be a record year overall. Left: Eve De Pencier high fives 7-year-old Cecilia and 4-year-old Niall Norton after their win at the balloon popping game. Below, clockwise from left: Cassidy, 5, and Mason, 8, Friesen ride the swings. There were long line-ups for the Zero Gravity ride. Adara Wiley rock climbing. Makayla and Liam Hacking pose for a photo. PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVE VAN DE LAAR AND JULIA SACCO




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Volunteers make the Stampede go 'round

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Pleasant weather graced the Niagara Peninsula last weekend, making for three days of sunshine at the Virgil Stampede.

Richard Wall, president of the Virgil Business Association, which organizes the annual carnival, said that while final numbers weren't yet available, he suspects this may have been a record-breaking year.

"It was a great weekend — I don't know across the board — but one of our better years," Wall told The Lake Report.

More volunteers were involved this Stampede weekend, with an estimated 300 to 400 helping out, he added.

The majority of work to plan and run the Stampede is done by volunteers.

Among them was Petra Browning, daughter of a founding member of the Stampede, Siegfried Wiens.

"I've been doing the Stampede since I was eight years old," Browning said.

Her dad used to run the french fry booth, she explained, and while in elementary school she and her sister Angela would help him out every year.



Marcus Tsujinaka and Dory Fowler help run the food both on Sunday. JULIA SACCO

"We were always there until the end, but he always let us sneak out to watch the fireworks," Browning said.

"My mom was home and we came home late and she put us right in the bathtub because we smelled like french fries."

Browning became a member of the Virgil Business Association in 1988. During this year's Stampede, she helped organize volunteers and lent a hand at the food stands on Sunday and Monday.

Maintaining the family tradition, Petra's son Sam

and daughter Sienna also helped out at the burger stand.

Martin and Rita Mazza also volunteer together as a family.

Every year, Martin, owner of Italian Pizza and Subs, donates pizza and dough for pig ears.

This year, he prepped 125 pizzas and 528 pig ears for Stampede weekend.

Along with that, the husband and wife duo work the french fry booth and stay on the final night to help with clean up and enjoy the fireworks.

"My wife's birthday is May 20, so she spent her birthday watching the fireworks," Mazza said.

"That's my big joke: I always say, 'Rita, I'm going to buy the best fireworks I can afford for your birthday today.'"

Wall extended a hearty thanks to Mazza, Browning and the hundreds of other volunteers who gave their time over the weekend.

"Without those 300 or 400 volunteers, the Stampede would not happen," he said.

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Teen charged after BB gun seized at Stampede

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Thanks to heightened security measures at the Virgil Stampede this year, organizers were able to prevent a teenager from bringing a firearm into the carnival.

Niagara Regional Police said an 18-year-old from St. Catharines was going through the security checkpoint at about 4:30 on Monday afternoon when a replica handgun was found during a search of his bag.

The firearm turned out to be a replica of a Glock pistol, with a magazine containing BB ammunition.

"Security attempted to remove the firearm from the male, which initiated a struggle," police said in an email.

Security officers seized the gun, but the teenager ran off. He was arrested nearby.

Cameron Newbold was charged with failing to comply with a release order.

The carnival was packed when the incident occurred and some of the crowd started running toward where the security guards were headed.

"The problem is that once the kids see security running it becomes a mob mentality. You get a few kids running and then they all start running to see what it is," one Stampede volunteer told The Lake Report.

The altercation ended quickly, he said.

The Virgil Business Association organizes the

Stampede and president Richard Wall said Kronos Security, the company hired to handle security, did a "phenomenal job."

"There were a few instances and issues, but they were on top of it immediately," he said.

Wendy Kulp volunteered at the front entrance of the Stampede and, even before the replica gun was found, she said that all weekend long, security was quick to shut down any potential problems.

"They're catching little things that could go big," Kulp said. "They're preemptive."

Martin Mazza, a volunteer and member of the Virgil Business Association, urged NOTLers to understand just how good a job the security staff did.

And he said that the spreading of rumours regarding violence at the Stampede was "unfortunate."

"The VBA gets slammed for not doing enough to help, but we're trying our best," he said.

"We're a volunteer-based organization so we have to spend hard-earned money to pay for that security. It's kind of disheartening," Mazza added.

In a separate incident, about 6:40 p.m. Monday, two police officers responded to a call about someone swearing, yelling and making threatening comments to security staff.

Elissa V. DeLeon, 34, of St. Catharines, was charged with causing a disturbance, police said.

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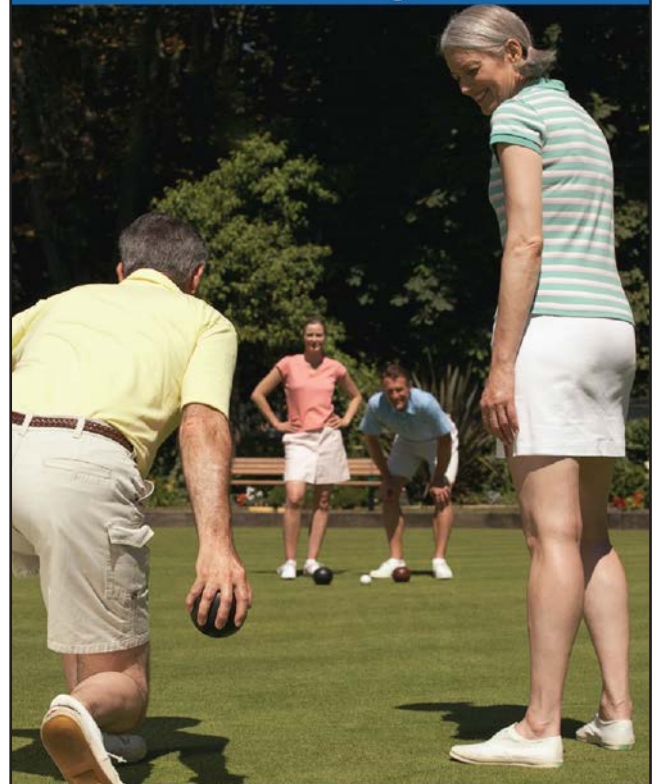
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Library neutrality group filing integrity complaint

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Members of a residents group concerned about the firing of Niagara-on-the-Lake's chief librarian say they will be filing a complaint with the town's integrity commissioner and seeking an investigation into the affair.

"We are in the process of preparing the complaint with the integrity commissioner and hoping to file it before the end of next week," Tony Powell, a member of the group promoting library neutrality, told The Lake Report on Monday.

Speaking to council about the issue last week, he said the group wanted councillors to take the initiative and ask integrity commissioner Ted McDermott to conduct an investigation.

"We think it should come from council," Powell said.

The group wants McDermott to examine the circumstances around the library board's decision to fire chief librarian Cathy Simpson.

However, the town took no action in that regard and Coun. Gary Burroughs, who



Andrew Porteus, left, and Tony Powell Powell are two members of a group calling on the NOTL Library Board to preserve library neutrality in the resources it offers. FILE

chaired last week's meeting, noted that any resident can file a complaint with the commissioner.

The group maintains that Simpson did nothing wrong and in fact was abiding by library policies when she wrote an opinion piece in The Lake Report about Freedom to Read Week.

That prompted complaints from some library staff and at least one letter to the editor criticizing Simpson for supporting the positions of a U.S. organization, the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR), which has been labelled

by some as a tool of the far right in the United States.

"This all smells," Powell told councillors last week.

"The woman stands up and says there should be library neutrality. It's right in line with the library's own policies. All she did is support exactly what she's supposed to," he added.

The group is promoting library neutrality — the idea that libraries must carry a wide range of material representing many viewpoints, even controversial or offensive ones — and has now collected more than 800 names on an online petition

supporting that cause.

At last week's council meeting, the group emphasized that a vacancy on the library board should be filled by someone who supports library neutrality.

Powell's presentation outlined some of the qualities council might consider in assessing possible candidates. None of the leaders of Powell's group plan to seek the position.

Coun. Adriana Vizzari is the town's representative on the library board and was part of the unanimous decision to fire Simpson.

In an interview last

Thursday, she was asked her opinion on several issues, including Powell's presentation to council, library neutrality, the overall library controversy, the lone public complaint about Simpson's opinion piece and how the library board is accountable to the public.

She refused to comment.

"We see the presentation as a council. No decisions were made and there were no motions brought forward about library neutrality," she said.

"I'm happy to speak about the library. I'm happy to speak about literacy, about programming, about lots and lots of things" the library is doing, she said.

She noted that "debates over library collections are not new," but refused to express any opinion on the idea of library neutrality or the controversy.

"I have nothing to offer about library neutrality" and suggested instead speaking to Daryl Novak, co-chair of the library board.

During Powell's 10-minute presentation to council, which was broadcast via livestreamed video, Vizzari can be seen reacting

to some of the comments being made.

Some viewers expressed surprise and disappointment in Vizzari's responses during the presentation.

In an email on Tuesday, she told The Lake Report, "I care deeply about the library and its role within our community, and I take my role as a member of the board very seriously."

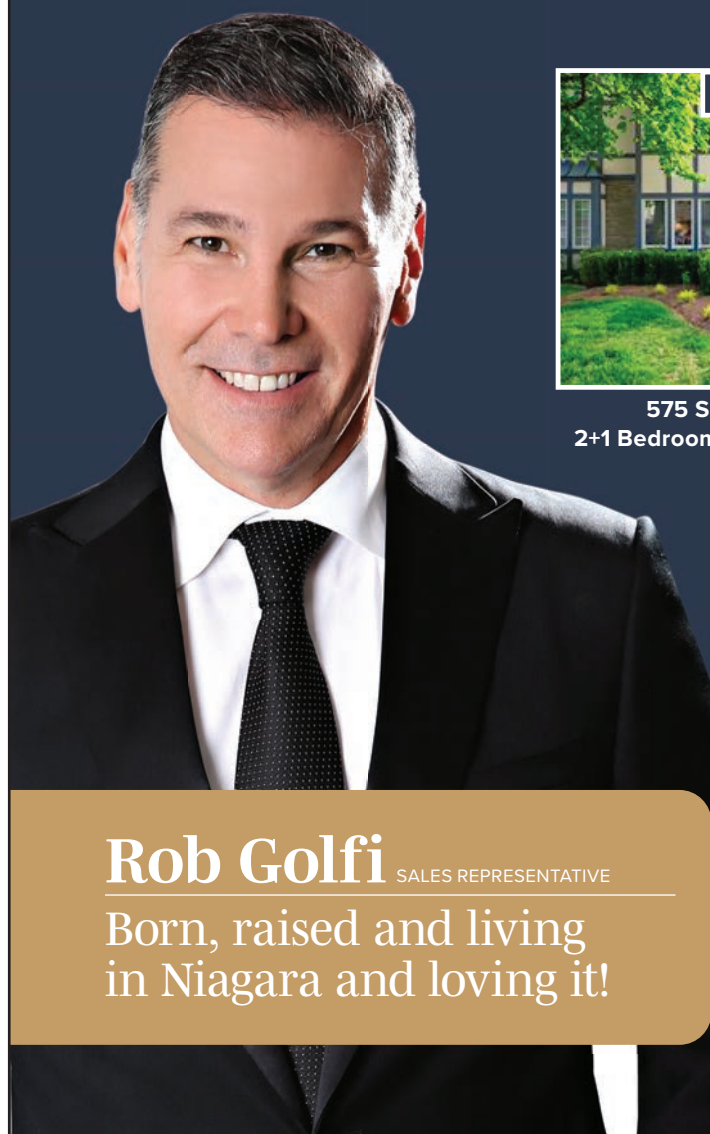
"If my on-camera reactions came across in any way that didn't represent that, I apologize. That was not my intent at all."

Given the opportunity to clarify her position on accountability, she wrote that the board "is accountable to the public by setting clear goals, developing action plans and executing them effectively. This is done through the board's current 2021-2024 strategic plan."

"As a town councillor, I am accountable during the budget process, which was completed at the beginning of the year and received council approval. We are also held accountable under the Public Libraries Act."

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A true gentleman: Memories of ‘The Doc,’ respected NOTL physician Ranjit Ahluwalia

With the death of Dr. Ranjit Ahluwalia last week at the age of 95, Niagara-on-the-Lake lost a respected physician and well-loved member of the community.

A family doctor, he and his wife Barbara called NOTL home for more than half a century and raised their five children here.

The Doc, as he was affectionately known to friends, also was a gifted multi-sport

athlete, top-level bridge player and gracious host, among many other accomplishments. He was born in Kenya, where his exploits as a cricket player were legendary.

With his ever-present white turban, he cut a dashing figure. The Doc was a colourful and kind man who personified the term “gentleman.” He was a friend to many, and he and Barbara were deeply involved in

the community for decades.

He is survived by his wife, five children and four grandchildren. As was his wish, there will be no funeral. An obituary notice appears in this edition of The Lake Report. The family hosted a celebration of life on Tuesday, May 21.

We asked retired pharmacist Ward Simpson to share some reflections and memories of his longtime friend.

Ward Simpson
Special to The Lake Report

I was first introduced to Ranjit Ahluwalia in 1977, when he interviewed me about opening a pharmacy in the medical centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

With his professional manner and kind disposition, I knew I was in front of a gentleman.

With the consent of Dr. Julian Adams and other physicians practising in town at the time, I opened the pharmacy.

We moved to NOTL in 1978 and within weeks my wife and two kids were invited to the Ahluwalia home for swims, supper and friendship.

To all of us, he was known by the affectionate nickname of “The Doc.”

Over the years, even though The Doc was 15 years older than me, we became very close. The Ahluwalia family became our second family.

The Doc and I enjoyed golf sessions together, a few drinks and lots of laughs.

I really got to appreciate him on our numerous golf trips to Ireland.

His first trip with us — Paul Dickson and Brian McKillop — he quickly became known to the locals as “the man with the bandage on his head.”

His brilliant white turban was his trademark.

The Doc appreciated the recognition and became famous on our several trips that followed.

Years later, when The Doc could not make the trip, the locals always asked, “Where’s the man with the bandage?”

The Irish people loved The Doc. Who wouldn’t?

His family, wife Barbara, a former nurse, children Gian, Amrit, Rajinder, Kamla and Baldev, are a testament to the wonderful man we knew as “The Doc.”

I was very fortunate to have known Ranjit for more than 40 years.

His career as a physician



Longtime friends Dr. Ranjit Ahluwalia and Ward Simpson are pictured at the NOTL Wall of Fame gathering in 2019. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

was not only one of caring for his patients but of respect for other persons in the health care field.

He was one of the first physicians to consult with me as a pharmacist about certain medications and their interactions.

I was never hesitant to call him regarding a potential drug interaction with a new prescription.

His writing on an Rx was impeccable. He made the role of the pharmacist an important part of the treatment of his patients.

Socially, he and Barbara were the outstanding hosts. Their parties were the most welcoming, with exceptional food, usually with at least a tinge of Indian spice to tempt all palates.

They both are well-known around town and not only hosted many functions, but were invited to all the social gatherings around town.

Ranjit’s height, distinguished facial features and white turban made him easily recognizable.

We held a baseball fun day one year with the staff from the Niagara Medical Centre and The Doc was out in left field.

I offered him a baseball glove but he politely refused.

“I played cricket before and we never wore a glove,” he said. Sure enough, he made all the catches hit his way.

Speaking of cricket, he and Barbara invited me on a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, where The Doc grew up, where they met and where they were married.

The Doc had told me of his cricket prowess, but I was overwhelmed when he took me to a cricket club where he had played.

As we entered the club, the scene was like a wall of fame dedicated to Ranjit Ahluwalia.

Pictures of him were everywhere and as we walked into the lounge there was silence as heads turned and the patrons stood and applauded, instantly recognizing a past cricket hero.

I was moved to tears, having never before realized I was in the presence of a national hero.

The food and libations flowed, and we were not allowed to spend a shilling.

The Doc then took me out to the cricket field and showed me where he had cracked a window with a hit. It felt to me like “Field of Dreams.”

One year, on one of our trips to Ireland, we went to a function where Freddy Truman, a famous cricket bowler, was the guest of honour. When Truman finished his presentation, The Doc went up and introduced himself.

“I remember you,” Truman said. “You hit me for a six.”

They shook hands and had quite a cricket conversation.

If The Doc had a fault it was his lack of patience, especially on a golf course.

A talented player, he could hit the ball a mile with his cricket-style swing. But he never liked having to wait to hit it.

“Come on, Charlie,” he would calmly say if the group in front of us was taking too long.

As a matter of fact that phrase also applied to a slow waiter in a restaurant, a slow driver on the highway, or any situation where The Doc felt he had to wait.

But, honestly, I have never known a kinder gentleman, a more professional physician, a man who was more respectful of each person he met or knew.


In the past year, even though I realized The Doc was in a place that he did not want to be, the care he received was excellent, which made it a bit more bearable for Barbara and his friends to visit him.

I confess that at times, as Ranjit’s health declined, I wished the power above would take him away.


But now that he’s gone, I’m truly saddened. The world, and our community, have lost a good man.

May you rest in peace, my good friend.

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This group of women are quilters who work out of the Cornerstone Community Church donate their creations to those in need. They're seen here presenting quilts to NOTL Palliative Care director Bonnie Bagnulo. JULIA SACCO

Quilters give warmth to palliative care

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Every Tuesday morning, 15 of Niagara-on-the-Lake's generous quilters meet at Cornerstone Community Church on Hunter Road and get to work.

Formed around 15 years ago, this group of ladies

have donated quilts to organizations around town, including Newark Neighbours and to those in need outside of the community.

On Tuesday afternoon, the group made its first-ever donation to NOTL Palliative Care, supplying 26 lap quilts for those in need.

The blankets will be used in palliative care for both in-

home and long-term clients.

Bonnie Bagnulo, the organization's executive director, said the blankets will certainly be put to good use.

"We are so blessed to have a community that is so giving. I want to say to them, thank you so much for what you do to help us do what we do," Bagnulo said.

Dorothy Soo-Wiens, who

has dedicated countless hours to the quilts since Christmas, along with other volunteers, said they hope the donations bring comfort to those who need it.

"Our primary purpose for making them is that they would be a comfort and a blessing and it gives all of us here a purpose," she said.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

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Ten homes featured in inaugural Chautauqua garden tour

Staff
The Lake Report

Residents of a Niagara-on-the-Lake neighbourhood will be showing off their gardens at the inaugural Chautauqua Art & Garden Tour on June 1.

The tour grew out of suggestions by members of the Chautauqua Residents Association at their annual meeting last year and “we are thrilled to be able to produce it to showcase the neighbourhood’s horticultural and artistic talents,” association president Weston Miller said.

“We have 10 unique gardens on the tour and many local artists,” he added.

“The tour is completely free to attend and is done in the spirit of promoting the talented Chautauqua residents to a wider audience in town.”

“Historically, Chautauqua was a very artistic community and we are happy to be shining a light on that,” Miller said.



Troy Miller’s backyard oasis is among ten properties featured on the inaugural Chautauqua Art & Garden Tour. SUPPLIED

The tour will run from 1 to 4 p.m. While admission is free, cash donations are welcomed.

Mary Kilmer, one of the leaders of the project, compiled descriptions of the gardens and artists involved in the tour:

13 Addison Ave.: Features 40 varieties of

spectacular bearded and beardless irises. There will be a plant and bake sale at this location.

4 Circle St.: Four separate areas distinguish this garden. Hostas predominate: various Japanese maples, grasses, heuchera and shrubs harmonize with perennial beds. The work

of artist Jo-Ann Fraser also will be displayed.

2 Froebel Ave.: A diverse mix of native and non-native trees, flowering plants and vegetables, the garden is a living ecosystem incorporating cover and sustenance for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. Artist Benj Koffman.

26 Shakespeare Ave.:

Connect your senses with nature as you enter the gate to this country garden of tranquility. Artist: Heather Bacon.

42 Shakespeare Ave.: A simple garden to muse in. Artist: Tara Korkmaz.

44 Shakespeare Ave.: Mainly a perennial garden,

with annuals in hanging baskets.

61 Shakespeare Ave.: A Japanese-inspired sanctuary with Californian influences, featuring more than 30 varieties of Japanese maple and an artist’s working studio. Artist: Troy Miller.

5 Wilberforce Ave.: A display of photographs of the many visitors to this garden, plus artwork (hand drawings and digital creations), all accompanied by poems and songs. Artist: Holmes Hooke.

7 Wilberforce Ave.: A stage designer’s partnership with nature creates an unexpected garden experience. On display in the studio will be set design models and costume design renderings — and the giant map of Chautauqua’s trees. Artist: Leslie Frankish.

22 Wilberforce Ave.: This garden features a water fountain centring geometrically placed boxwood and yew shrubs.

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The view from the top



A view from the top of the Ferris wheel shows the Stampede early Monday morning. Crowds were just starting to pack the carnival and lines grew significantly by the time the ride was over. RICHARD HARLEY

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Contributed by **Patty Garriock**

“Adopt the pace of nature. Her secret is patience.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Editorial

Another successful Virgil Stampede

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

When you spend most of the year planning and organizing and improving an annual spectacle like the Virgil Stampede, the last thing anyone wants is for something to go wrong.

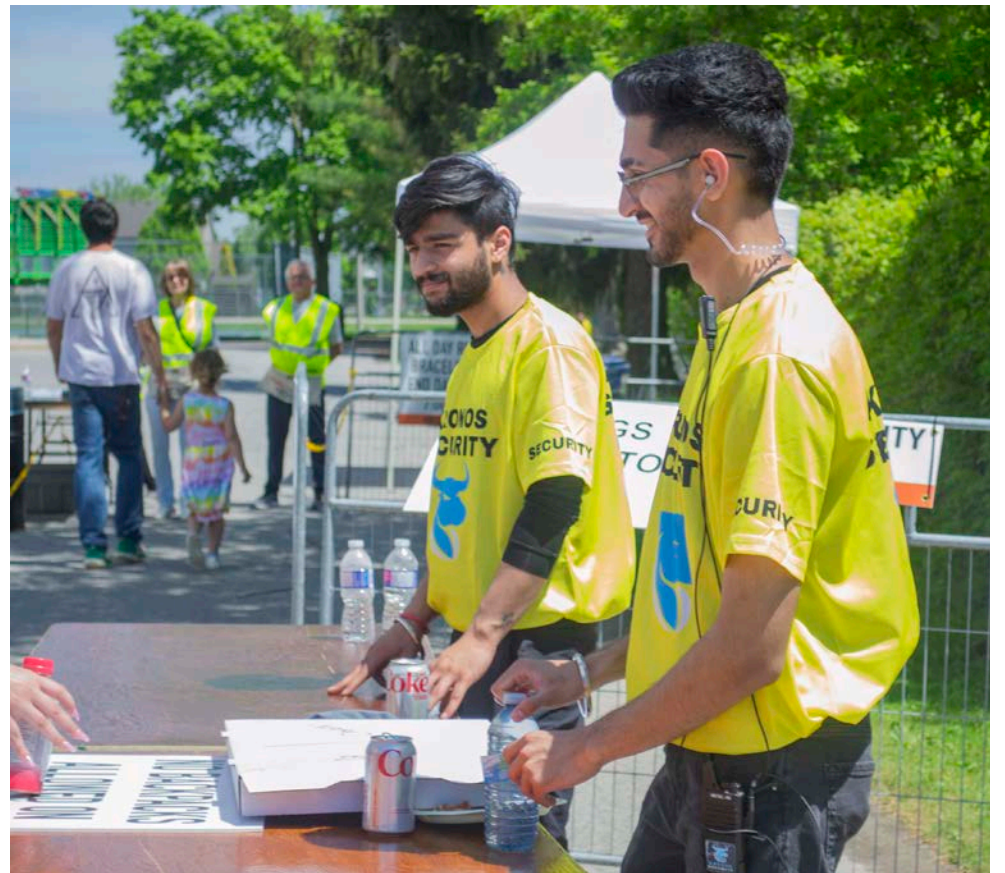
Once again this year, thousands packed the Virgil Sports Park and environs — especially on Sunday and Monday, and especially thanks to beautiful weather. (And no rain!)

After some unfortunate problems last year involving fights and a weapon, the Virgil Business Association, the organizer of the Stampede, decided to boost security for the 2024 fair.

And it worked. Like a charm. No one enjoys the prospect of a possible bag search or having to wait a bit in line, but Richard Wall and the VBA made the right decision in opting to be proactive and invest in ensuring that no one had to worry about being unsafe.

Those new security measures helped to keep a BB gun out of the carnival.

No one involved in such a community enterprise as the Stampede wants to be in the news because weapons were found (or worse, used)



Dhruv Sharma and Yatin Sant checked bags at the front entrance on Saturday. Kronos Security was hired by the Stampede organizers this year. JULIA SACCO

at their event.

However, thanks to the organizers' well-thought-out security protocols, there was no issue.

Now, why anyone feels it is necessary to bring along a replica Glock pistol to a community carnival is beyond comprehension. That's just the world we live in today.

We're all just glad that a

potential negative situation was turned positive.

As Wall points out in a news story elsewhere in this edition, the Stampede would not be able to do what it does without the 300 to 400 community volunteers who do everything from helping at the front gates to slinging burgers and cleaning up. And year-round planning of the carnival.

We're proud of the effort that kids and adults alike put in every May to make sure the Stampede is a success.

And we thank each and every one of those who pitched in this year.

We're already looking forward to 2025 — and three more days of Stampede sunshine.

editor@niagaranow.com

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Kayakers still need **easy access** to Balls Beach

Dear editor:
 Despite pressure from locals and a well-written article last year in The Lake Report by Somer Slobodian (“Kayakers are feeling pushed out of Balls Beach,” July 19), kayakers still have no answers as to why the Balls Beach parkette and street parking were taken away from them.

The town has launched a proposal to reinvent the town dock near River Beach Drive.

But it feels like the town is diverting attention away from the fact that public access for small watercraft was stealthily removed with not a ripple of warning or discussion to the kayakers who use it.

In a lovely town such as ours, with such a high senior population, one would think it would be wise to keep seniors active and engaged.

Since 2018 a group of kayakers has been in public discussions with the town.

We never asked for a launching dock in the Balls Beach area as the town is now proposing.

The nearly two-metre drop from the dock to the water that a kayaker has to conquer will likely eliminate access to seniors who are not strong enough to manoeuvre through it.

I imagine this impractical height is part of the reason the proposed dock launching ramp came with an \$80,000 price tag.



Letter writer Frances Boot says the two-metre drop from the dock near River Beach Drive to the water for kayaks is an accessibility problem for seniors. SUPPLIED

Note that the 2018 final draft of the dock area secondary plan said the site plan was to include easy access to Balls Beach, but the reality is that it is still not easily accessible.

All we need is relatively calm water and a gentle slope to walk in, which historically we always had at Balls Beach.

The west end of River Beach Drive previously had on-street parking and now has a temporary “no parking” sign in front of the house at #90. Why?

When the park was hydro-seeded after restoration work, an area near the willow tree had gravel parking for three or four vehicles.

An adjacent property owner intervened with the town workers and the gravel was removed and replaced with soil and grass seed.

The parking area near the willow tree was never a safety concern until River Beach Drive neighbours

expressed a concern.

There was never a formal study to declare it a safety concern.

There used to be a parking area in that spot and it could still be implemented as parking for locals with a permit.

Kayaks and canoes can weigh from 35 to 65 pounds and the present drop-off arrangements do not coincide with the dock area plan for easy accessibility.

Please don't tell me to look forward to the recently promised dock at River Beach Park.

There is no stop sign at the 90-degree bend in the road where water enthusiasts would be crossing from the municipal parking lot.

There is also a huge 1.5- to 2-metre elevation drop from grass level to water level. I cannot see how that distance could be easily engineered or managed even with a floating dock or ramp, although maybe that's

why the dock is projected to cost \$80,000.

There is also a strong water current and lots turbulence in that area, especially compared to the safety of the small harbour that has been created at Balls Beach.

We are asking for our parking to be reinstated under the old willow at Balls Beach and along the south side of the west end of River Beach Drive.

Some suggestions for discussion:

Perhaps “Local Permit Parking Only” might help.

One could also review land ownership; it would be interesting to see how much the driveways and gardens of the homes on the north side of River Beach Drive are actually encroaching on the public road allowance.

Angle parking for permit holders and property owners might be a solution there or perhaps use the Ball Street north-south road allowance and make a one-way loop using Turntable Way and River Beach Drive.

Clearly there are options and they should be discussed as a community, not controlled by the squeakiest wheels.

Our efforts should be to keep Niagara-on-the-Lake an active and dynamic place, including accessible waterfronts for everyone of all physical abilities.

I look forward to receiving the support that was promised.

**Frances Boot
NOTL**

No solution possible without **accepting existence** of Israel

Dear editor:

Without question there is a worldwide rise in anti-semitism.

But what is antisemitism other than an irrational and general hatred of Israel and the Jewish community?

There are those who do not really know what they are protesting and others who have forgotten or never learned the events of history.

This includes the president of the United States, who is against providing certain arms to a country that must protect itself and provide security to its citizens, because he may not approve of the manner in which they are used.

In the war against Germany, people of the U.K. and western Europe were quite happy to accept all American munitions and material even though they would likely be used against civilians (Dresden and Berlin are examples).

America also carried out the deliberate firebombing of Tokyo and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in which tens of thousands of civilians were killed. This is not an endorsement of these actions, but they did take place.

Israel is a minuscule piece of land taken out of a massive land area that was once Arabia. It was created by the UN in 1947 but never accepted by its hostile neighbours.

Antisemitism has existed for a very long time and in



my opinion is based to some extent on envy and resentment by others of Jewish achievements in medicine, science, music and the arts, and technology.

This is something that we should all appreciate, particularly since they come from such a small community.

Because of these hostilities and without warning, in 1967 the Six Day War was commenced by many of Israel's neighbours and ended six days later with an Israeli win and occupation of parts of Palestine for security reasons.

A heightened level of security is understandable when surrounded by neighbours who call for your destruction.

However, allowing settlements on disputed territory is certainly questionable and will have to be considered in any settlement.

Until Israel is accepted by its neighbours and there is a commitment to non-violence and stopping antisemitism by all parties, a two-state solution for Palestine seems impossible.

And the war against Hamas, with all its devastation, will likely continue, even with a ceasefire agreement.

**Derek Collins
NOTL**

NOTL's downtown trash cans **overflowing with recyclables**

Dear editor:
 Quick question: why doesn't the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake have recycling bins on Queen Street and in the parking lots of Old Town?

We're just back from a dog walk and all the garbage bins were overflowing with a mixture of cans, bottles and garbage after a busy holiday Monday in town.

**Leslie, Hamish
& Brandy Kerr
NOTL**

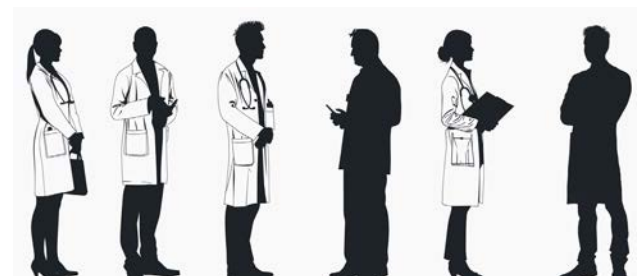


Not enough money for family doctors and physician assistants

Dear editor:
 In The Lake Report on May 16, physician assistant student Lara Fluri (“Physician assistant would enhance health care in NOTL,” letter) tells us that her profession could help solve the family doctor shortage in Ontario.

She suggests that physician assistants could be half-funded by the Ontario government with the other half obviously funded by the family doctor or health clinic that would hire them.

However, under the “small business model,” with pay-



ments for rent or municipal taxes, supplies, secretaries, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, even psychiatric social worker, there isn't much left to pay the family doctor.

Yes, we are graduating more medical doctors in Ontario as Progressive Con-

servative Health Minister Sylvia Jones asserts.

More than 650 graduated from the University of Toronto last year but Ontario's populace is now over 15 million. In my final year, 1957, we had 148 graduates and the province's population was about 5.3 million.

However, the percentage of family doctors is way down because they have been overworked and underpaid for decades.

As Matt Gurney in a May 9 TVO opinion piece asserts: “For the love of God, give family doctors more money.”

By the way, at the Niagara North Family Health Team clinic in Virgil (beside Simpson's Pharmacy), the sign still says, “Doctors accepting new patients.”

**Dr. Elizabeth Oliver-Malone, ret.
NOTL**



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Let's stand and fight for our town





Brian Marshall
Columnist

Every morning it is my wife's habit to walk her dog along the streets of Old Town.

Recently, she found herself walking down Prideaux Street and, as she neared Gate Street, a couple approached her and asked if she was a "local."

When my wife replied that she did indeed live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of the individuals shook her head and asked, "What is wrong with you people?"

She continued without a breath: "How could your town council have allowed something like that," she said, waving her hand in the direction of a relatively new infill house, "to be built? It ruins the flavour of the whole street."

"You know, we've been coming here for nearly 40 years to enjoy the history and ambience of the town, but over the last couple of years, we've seen more and more of that kind of thing," she said, pointing once again at the offending house.

"I'll tell you, it has us questioning whether we should be looking for another historic town — one that respects and preserves its character — and just stop coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The unfortunate thing is that this was not an isolated incident. It's something that both my wife and I have heard before.

There's an old fable from Aesop's Fable that gave rise to the idiom "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs," which seems to be seen as applicable to the trend of the last few years in NOTL.

Moreover, not a month



Brian Marshall says NOTL needs to stop allowing builds that don't align with the natural streetscapes, or risk killing what makes this town so special for so many visitors and residents alike. FILE

goes by during which I fail to hear residents of 10, 15 or more years suggest that the character of the town is being lost.

The reasons they chose this place to live are rapidly disappearing, as it seems to be morphing into just another piece of Ontario suburbia.

There are those who believe the town's unique and special character has already been damaged past the point of recovery — some of whom have sold and moved on while others are seriously considering doing so.

I am not one of those people.

I will stand and fight to preserve a place and community of which I am a part.

Yes, we face difficult challenges: our current provincial government and its appointed lackeys are blatantly in bed with the interests of developers and actively sabotaging heritage preservation, while denying communities across this province the ability to protect their character.

However, these challenges are not insurmountable.

But, it takes the town's council providing clear and unequivocal strategic direction to staff and day-to-day involvement of residents in communicating community priorities to councillors —

not on an issue-by-issue basis (although there is a place for that), but rather, a continual presence, informing and, where appropriate, supporting policy direction.

So, let's visit two outstanding letters to the editor published in the May 16 edition of *The Lake Report*, the first being Endre Mecs' "A tale of two towns — and inconsistent rulings" and the second, Jim and Erika Alexander's "Tribunal erred and town needs to appeal condo ruling."

In his letter, Mecs poses this question: "How can two recent tribunal decisions come up with two totally different approaches and decisions in what are quite similar situations?"

I have taken the time to carefully read and consider each of the two decisions rendered by the Ontario Land Tribunal on these separate appeals: for your edification, the former can be found by Googling "Ontario Land Tribunal 2024 OLT-23-000311" and the latter on the town's website, NOTL.com, by searching "OLT-23-001106" and selecting the PDF document dated April 26, 2024.

Let us set aside that Fort Erie's decision was rendered by Kurtis Smith, whose expertise is in urban planning, while Niagara-on-the-Lake's was adjudicated by K.R. Andrews, a

lawyer called to the bar in 2010 — the two presented arguments are remarkably different.

In Fort Erie's case, it is clear from the get-go that the argument was built on the municipality's official plan and each facet of the town's position called on evidence that supported/re-enforced the criteria established in that document.

The argument was logical, consistent and thoroughly supported by legislation.

Purely on conjecture, it could be imagined that Fort Erie's planning department may have an established guiding strategic direction along the lines of reviewing each application first on the criteria established in the town's official plan, then reviewing against current Planning Act provisions, and following, using its expertise to provide legally compliant recommendations in support of the official plan.

Nothing illegal therein, just good management practices.

Turning to Niagara-on-the-Lake, its case was conflicted from the beginning since staff, absent of any such direction to focus their research and recommendations underwritten by the town's official plan, developed a report with findings predicated on the provincial

Planning Act and associated recent legislation.

Thus, staff found the applicant's submission acceptable within those criteria.

And, when town council failed to arrive at any decision on this application within the legally allowable timeframe, our town planner was put in the unenviable position of attempting to marginalize the original staff recommendations and argue that the Ontario Land Tribunal did not have the authority to set aside provisions of the town's accepted official plan.

It is my experience, based on more than four decades of adjudicated negotiation, the fastest way to prejudice your case is suggest the judge lacks the authority to render a balanced decision — particularly when you are arguing against your own original recommendations.

To be clear, I do not feel the responsibility for loss in this case (and the recommendations of staff on other applications) rests with the town planner.

Rather, it is the failure of management — namely the town council and lord mayor — to establish, re-enforce and support strategic guidelines that provide an ongoing staff direction to, first and foremost, work to preserve the integrity of the town's Official Plan.

Moving to the Alexanders' letter, they write, "... the tribunal decision is an error in law and thus subject to appeal by the town."

Contrary to the declaration in the town's website that the tribunal's decision is "final," the Ontario Land Tribunal Act, 2021 — Part 3, Section 23 actually reads: "Unless another act specifies otherwise, an order or decision of the tribunal may be appealed to the divisional court, with leave of that court on motion in accordance with subsection (3), but only on a question of law."

So, it is possible to appeal on a "question of law": but does this decision meet that criteria?

To get an opinion, I reached out to a senior partner in a reputable Niagara law firm.

Based on a cursory examination, he suggested there appears to be an error in law in the King Street decision — certainly sufficient to justify a thorough study of the decision to establish a go-forward position vis-à-vis an appeal.

In this case, it seems to me that would be taxpayer dollars well spent.

I recall a meeting that took place many years ago in a corporate boardroom.

The chair, after an hour of listening to objections voiced by the people around the table, stopped the conversation and said, "I think you've forgotten that we are responsible for protecting the best interests of the shareholders and stakeholders of this company."

"Your job is not to find reasons why something can't be done," the chair continued, "it's to figure out how it can be done in a way that delivers benefits to all."

It's time we stand and fight for our town.

It's time that town council take an active role in the executive management of town hall, in the best interest of the taxpayers who have chosen to make this town their home.

Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.

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Don Mustill
Special to The Lake Report

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Whether you believe humans contribute a little to the problem — or a lot.

Whether you believe excessive CO2 from burning fossil fuels is the culprit — or not.

Let's stop fighting and stop trying to "win" the argument. It doesn't matter. We can all be "winners."

So, how green is Canada?

Ours is already one of the cleanest, greenest countries in the world. More than 80 per cent of our electricity comes from near-zero emission sources. And Canada produces only 1.5 per cent of the world's CO2 emissions.

Our electricity sources are

hydro (60 per cent), nuclear (15 per cent), natural gas (11 per cent), coal (7 per cent), wind (5 per cent) and solar, geothermal, biomass (2 per cent).

Climate change is a global issue.

Whether you are a believer or not, Canada can help the rest of the world reduce its emissions.

Our abundant supply of natural gas can help eliminate or forgo hundreds of coal-fired generating plants throughout Europe, Asia, India and Africa.

In doing so, we can reduce global emissions on a scale that would be equal to a significant portion of Canada's total emissions.

Japan, Germany and Greece have already approached Canada, begging us to be a provider of oil and gas — and they've been turned away by the ideology of our current federal government.

Think about this: if one truly believes climate change is an existential threat, how can we not do everything in our power to help other countries reduce their emissions?



And if you don't believe it, how can you not want to boost our economy with energy exports?

The debate should be about results, not ideology. Let's stop fighting and think outside the Canadian bubble.

How do we "fuel" Canada's population growth?

Our population is growing and we will need more electricity, especially if Canadians choose to buy millions of electric vehicles.

Flying under the radar has been Canada's investment

in small modular reactors (SMRs) — an incredible smaller-scale technology that can power tens of thousands of homes.

SMRs range in size from 10 megawatts to 300 megawatts. The smallest SMR is the size of a truck, can power 8,000 homes and is assembled in a factory and delivered to the site for installation.

Provinces and nuclear partners have plans to be industry leaders and Canada already has a number of SMR projects in the pipeline, with some to be operational prior to 2030.

In fact, Ontario Power Generation's Darlington New Nuclear project is installing a 300 megawatt SMR and beginning the planning and licensing for three additional units. When complete, the project will safely and reliably power 1.2 million homes.

We can also unleash more hydro power. We have an abundance of hydro power with tens of thousands of megawatts untapped.

Accessing just 10,000 megawatts would power millions of homes.

Whether through enhancing existing projects or developing new ones, Canada could add 15,000 megawatts of capacity by 2035 — but only if government and industry work together with the urgency that's required.

Remember: it's the economy, stupid.

All we have to do is get out of our own way. We need to start thinking about how we can do projects, not trying to find reasons why we can't.

Canada needs to send a message that we are once again open for business.

Partnering with Indigenous communities for oil, gas, minerals and pipelines can re-energize our stagnant economy. Canada is one of the cleanest jurisdictions in the world to extract natural resources.

The demand is over there but the supply is right here. All we need is the aspiration and will to act.

Revenues would not only enrich Indigenous communities and strengthen our social programs, they can be used as incentives to continue the greening of our industries.

If we stop fighting, we can all win.

It all makes a carbon tax seem silly, right?

When you put it all together, the carbon tax is a product of small thinking. Ask yourself why?

Why do Canadians have to suffer with taxes and stifling regulations when instead, we can offer the world so much?

And what have we really accomplished? Until Canada hit the economic brakes with COVID, our annual emissions from 2005 through 2019 were virtually unchanged.

We've wasted almost a decade chasing energy and mining investment away — and limited our thinking entirely to a Canadian bubble.

Some like to brag that Canada used to "punch above its weight." Well, here's our chance to do just that. Let's not waste another decade.

Stop the fighting. Stop the politics.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Don Mustill is a retired banking and technology executive.

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Group supports library neutrality and integrity investigation

The following is an abridged version of the presentation that Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Tony Powell prepared for delivery to town council on May 14. The group's petition now has more than 800 signatures.

I am representing close to 800 residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake who signed a petition in support of library neutrality and over concerns of the actions in March of the current library board in firing Cathy Simpson, the CEO of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

We believe that council should fill the vacancy on the board with someone who believes in library neutrality and following library policies for the following reasons. We have concerns about:

1. The board's failure to follow its own policies for protecting library neutrality and viewpoint diversity.
2. The firing of library CEO Cathy Simpson by the library board, over her opinion piece in favour of library neutrality.
3. The waste of taxpayer money to censor a competent and long-serving employee who stands in defence of intellectual freedom.
4. The board's attempts to ban books or change policies to restrict access to

information.

We believe that as a result of these concerns the vacancy on the library board must be filled by a new member who believes in library neutrality and following library policies.

We also believe that an investigation by the integrity commissioner is warranted with respect to our concerns.

We believe you have an obligation to the residents who are members of the library and who will ultimately bear the cost of the library board's decision, to refer this matter to the integrity commissioner for investigation.

Cathy Simpson was fired, by the library board, from her job as chief librarian at age 61, just three years shy of retirement.

She has never had a negative performance review. Her employment was terminated without notice and without cause by the library board because she spoke up in favour of library neutrality.

How did this come about? Well, she wrote an opinion piece during Freedom to Read Week published in The Lake Report on Feb. 22.

Simpson supported Freedom to Read Week principles, including intellectual freedom, freedom



Tony Powell represents 800 residents who share concerns about the firing of former library CEO Cathy Simpson. He wants an investigation to be done. JULIA SACCO

of expression, freedom to read and resistance to censorship particularly the trend of censorship by library staff.

In setting out these arguments, Simpson ably exemplified the library's own collection development policy, which says it is committed "to intellectual freedom while protecting the collection from societal and political pressures."

The following week a letter to the editor of The Lake Report from one resident was published. This individual characterized Simpson's words as political statements when her article was nothing more than promoting neutrality and intellectual freedom.

Rather than rebut her views, this one resident carefully came to false, harmful and misleading conclusions that the library board then reacted to.

It should be noted that the

board only reacted after the publication of this one resident's letter to the editor.

Should the board have taken a more reasoned, negotiated path, rather than firing Simpson without notice and without cause which could have invited a wrongful dismissal lawsuit?

When certain staff members, who reacted sympathetically to the content of this individual's letter to the editor, threatened to quit, should their resignations have been accepted rather than fire the CEO, who holds a master of library science degree?

We are concerned that the board took action against Simpson after receiving a letter from the library manager. This letter, purporting to be on behalf of all staff, criticized Simpson. This library manager benefited from the board's decision as she replaced Simpson and presumably received a salary increase.

Have any books, purchased with taxpayers' money, been removed or are being removed from circulation, in violation of the library's policies?

We believe it is important for council to appoint a board member who believes in the following fundamental principles:

1. Libraries should be a bastion of free expression and a forum for various viewpoints.
2. Public libraries need to aspire to neutrality and collect materials that may be unpopular and even offensive to some members of the community.
3. Public libraries must uphold the essential value of institutional neutrality, for only in doing so can they create the conditions in which the freedom to read is possible.
4. There is no justification to exclude certain books, or denigrate those who support them, based

on ideological fear or unfounded accusations.

5. It is part of the library's responsibility to its public to ensure that its selection of material is not unduly influenced by the personal opinions of the selectors.

6. The library has a duty to uphold the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others.

7. The policies of the public library should be strictly adhered to.

One outcome of an investigation by the integrity commissioner would hopefully be a conclusion that it is absolutely essential to have a library board committed to those principles.

Another justification to open an investigation by the integrity commissioner is the fact that this decision by the library board has resulted in a significant waste of taxpayer money to fire a loyal and long-serving senior employee.

By the time that you factor in the severance costs for this wrongful dismissal, the cost of lost benefits, the cost of lost pension benefits, the cost of increasing the library manager's wage while she is acting CEO, legal fees and HR consulting fees, the library board's decision could cost the town upward of \$250,000 or more.

This represents a significant proportion of the total budget of the public library. This is an outrageous waste of public money of concern to most, if not all, members of this community.

These considerations also inform the criteria in choosing the new member of the library board.

From the overwhelming response to our petition, it seems clear that the board is out of step with this community, which it purports to serve.

Numerous citizen-led initiatives or complaints that, despite evidence of considerably less support than you have before you on this issue, nevertheless led town council either to take an action, refuse a development proposal, or reverse a prior decision of town council.

We ask you to do the right thing and ask for an investigation by the integrity commissioner into the actions of the board and appoint a new library board member who believes in library neutrality and adhering to library policies.

We believe an investigation is necessary to regain the trust of the residents of our community in the manner in which our public library is governed.

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Visiting artists find inspiration all over town

Monty Brown and Nan Perry from West Virginia were painting and interacting with passersby while working on a streetscape at the corner of Queen and Regent streets on Friday. Here for the weekend, the pair had already completed works of the Prince of Wales Hotel and Fort George with plans to paint right through the weekend. "Once you come here you can't help but want to come back," said Perry. "You just don't see anything in this town that is not paintable." RICHARD WRIGHT



That's a dandy of a lion

As any gardener knows, weeds are stubborn and prolific at this time of year. But Gordon and Lucy Hallitt were shocked when they found this mammoth dandelion on their property near Victoria and John streets in Old Town. With a root measuring some 30 inches, it could be one of a kind. "All our other dandelions are average, run-of-the-mill dandelions, not a freak like that one," said Lucy. And it's been living on, kept in vase full of water, for posterity. SUPPLIED



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: SLOW TALK

This six-letter word means the car's engine is running but the car isn't moving.

Last issue:

Category: THE GENERAL WELFARE

Clue: Trimming your nails is part of "good" this, sometimes called sanitary science.

Answer: What is hygiene?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Sue Rautenberg, Claudia Grimwood, Margie Enns, Bob Stevens, Pam Dowling, Sylvia Wiens, Jim Dandy, Wade Durling, Tami Lepp, Howard Jones, Margaret Garaughty, Esther VanGorder, Lynda Collet, Jesse Agnew, Bob Wheatley, David Spencer, Sheila Meloche, Elaine Landray, Tuija Johansson, Daniel Smith

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

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Travis Seetoo in *The Game of Love and Chance* (2023). Photo by Peter Andrew Luszyk.

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Nothing empty about Void Of Course Crystals

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A gallery, a clothing store, an astrological think factory, a place for learning and healing and just plain good vibes — this is Void Of Course Crystals, Niagara-on-the-Lake's newest one-stop-shop for everything mindful, oddly stylish and of the stars.

Owner and operator Roberta Bernat is a self-described entrepreneurial risk-taker, psychic, artist and lover of all things fine, mystical, spiritual and hard to discover.

"I've done it all," she says, meandering through her new storefront full of crystals, jewelry, clothing, fashion accessories, psychic paraphernalia, art and literature.

She decided, however, to put more of her focus into this business and make it a priority in her life.

"I took time off to be a psychic," she says. "I would do the odd show where I would sell crystals and different things, but I felt, no, it is time to expand and learn



Singing bowls are a meditation and relaxation tool says owner of Void of Course Crystals Roberta Bernat. She's got plenty of spiritual items in her new shop. RICHARD WRIGHT

more skills. So, this is it."

Located at 376 Mary St., the small, bright and compartmentalized space is like a walk through a modern den of antiquity where one could expect the whisper-like voice of a shaman calling you forward from behind a zodiac tapestry.

There are few brand names in this space.

It's kind of like a well-manicured garage or yard sale where one never knows what kind of hand-crafted treasure may jump off the wall or be found inside a precisely positioned display case or clothing rack.

The waft of incense catches you as you enter. It's inviting, but not overpowering.

"In this space, I feel like I don't want it to be overwhelming with scent," she says, passing by a shelving unit of tea light candles, incense sticks with sage and smouldering shells nearby.

"I want people to feel comfortable here so I brought in my favourites that I like smelling," she says, pointing out brands that are important to her, such as Goloka Incense from India.

"I support this company because they are charitably-

oriented ... and everything is clean and pure."

The business's products and wares are plentiful and eclectic with a focus on the non-traditional and, says Bernat, to help build and repair relationships with oneself.

"I have a space to book numerology classes, to book psychic readings, to book meditations, to have tarot card classes and for someone to just come in alone and to have a personal psychic reading."

Getting to the proposed reading and meditation rooms in Bernat's space,

customers have to pass by a line of clothing that is exotic and not-of-this realm — the realm of North America, that is.

"I have clothes from Nepal. I wear clothes from this company. They are so stylish. At first I thought, 'Nepal, what do they know about design?'" she says.

Turns out, they know a lot, she says.

"The clothes are beautiful and super summery and I want everyone to buy these so I can buy their fall and winter clothes. They are that nice."

Finally, the store's pièce (or pièces) de résistance: adorning the walls of the back hallway are selections of art from Bernat's favourite watercolours and acrylics from some of her most-admired local artists such as Graham Sibley of St. Catharines.

"I am going to call him a new artist because he hasn't been doing it that long," she says. "He's had occupations and never thought about art and then in his later years during retirement, he said, 'Ok, I am picking up a hobby.'

"Wickedly talented!" she says. "I love that he is on the wall here."

Another artist adorned on Bernat's wall whose pieces are also available for sale is Beverly Sneath.

Fawning over a collection of Sneath's watercolours, Bernat is genuine in her desire to share these pieces with the world.

"This is skill," she says. "She knows tricks. How she gets the light, how she gets the background, how she gets the blurry tones. She's just good."

Bernat is also an artist of watercolours and acrylics although she prefers to show off the works of others before her own.

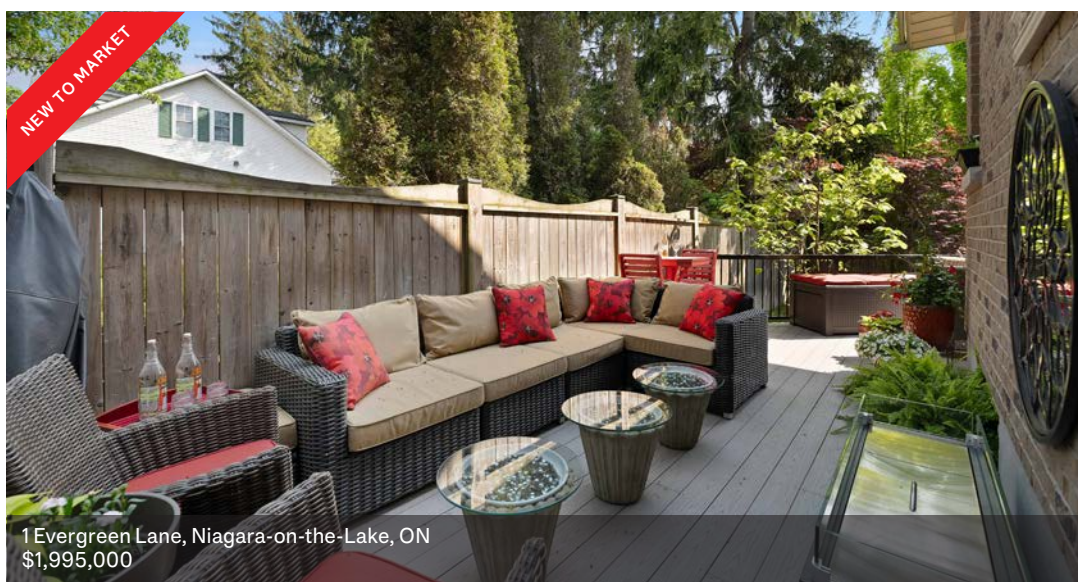
"I was prolific," she says. "But I felt it was time to take a break. I don't have to do the same thing forever."

The business, however, does have a long-term goal, she says.

Bernat has made a promise to herself to be here over the long haul for the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake and is excited to be in business in a community that has welcomed her so kindly.

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Warren Tutton, shown practising his chipping prior to a previous round, was the top shooter in NOTL men's league play last Thursday. FILE

Tutton, Neudorf top shooters in men's league

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The older and younger generations took turns leading the way in the first two weeks of men's league competition at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

Ageless octogenarian Warren Tutton led the pack in week 1, shooting a 1-over par 37. And under-30 lefty Devon Neudorf was top dog in week 2 with an even-par 36.

He also picked up a gross skin for an eagle 3 on the par-5 third hole.

Other week 2 winners: Earl Shore (best Stableford score with 26 points), Gary

Stuggins and Dan Regan (net eagles on #1 and #2 respectively), Michael Sanders, Ben Berti and Don Stewart (gross skins for birdies on #5, 6 and 8), Norm Kerr (closest to 150 marker #1), Patrick Craig (longest putt #2), Zach Luis (longest drive #3), A.J. Harlong and Mark Derbyshire (closest to the pin #4 and #9).

Other week 1 winners: Derbyshire, Ricky Watson and James Grigjanis-Meusel (net skins #1, 3 and 5), Dan Plomish (closest to 150 marker #1), Doug McCulloch (longest putt #2), Patrick Craig (longest drive #3), Quin-

ton Spagnol (closest to the pin #4) and Stuggins (closest to the pin #9).

Last Tuesday, Stuggins was again a winner, shooting a 2-over 38 to win low gross in WOOF's league play. Norm Kerr was one behind at 39.

Five others shot 41, including low net winner Mike Freel. Ernie Jensen was the hidden hole winner with a birdie on #3.

This week, Drew Porter's 39 was top dog, Mike Mott was low net winner and Brock Samson won the hidden hole (#5).

On Tuesday, 29 members of the 9-hole women's league com-

peted and top scorers were Patty Garriock (47), Judy Wright and Susan Horne (48) and Penny Green (51).

Longest drive on #3 was Cathy Saytar and the sand shot winners were Sherry Gylser and Ellen Smith.

Last Tuesday also was the first day of play for the 18-hole women's league.

The top three groups in a team competition were: Sharron Marlow, Cathy Murray and Marie Ellison (67), Michele Darling, Carolyn Porter and Diana Dimmer (72) and Brenda Bell, Robin Foster, Cathy Taylor and Yolanda Henry (74).

Canadian hockey makes me **ashamed**, not proud



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

TD Bank's ad "Let's make Canada proud" scrolls across my television screen during the current Stanley Cup playoffs.

For a long time, I have been puzzled by Canadian hockey.

We are a nation known for peacekeeping and fairness. Indeed, in 1957 Prime Minister Lester Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work defusing the Suez Canal crisis.

To be clear, I'm not some peace-loving wimp, wishing Canadian hockey could be more gentle and peaceful. I've survived "The Code."

In 1967, as a very unremarkable defenceman playing Junior A hockey for the Sudbury Wolves in the old Northern Ontario Hockey Association, I set a record that stood for over two years.

In one game against the league leading North Bay Trappers, I was assessed 37 minutes in penalties. Three fights, two misconducts and the final ignominious punishment, "two minutes for delaying the game."

That's how one-sided the three fights had been, with future NHL enforcer Floyd Thomson pummeling me

until the referee threw me out of the game early in the third period.

Bloodied, I called the ref over to the penalty box to tell him I had enjoyed his joke. He shouted, "I threw you out for your own protection. You were going to get seriously hurt."

Even after I had turned turtle during the third fight.

Not much has really changed in the world of Canadian hockey since that game up north 57 years ago. Still a toxic culture with rules and customs that encourage bullying and thuggish behaviour. The Code lives on and our national game is struggling to remain relevant.

Minor hockey registration levels have dropped to the point where many "house leagues" don't have enough teams. Hockey parents are forced to spend way too much time driving to out-of-town games and tournaments.

As the legendary American coach Badger Bob Johnson once said in Wisconsin, "No kid ever got better at hockey by sitting in the back of a minivan."

The cost of these weekend hockey trips makes travel hockey exclusionary. And what if there is more than one child in the family?

Better to get the adults out of the way and let the kids play shinny, making up their own rules and picking their own teams. Instead, we perpetuate the toxic culture so that parents can have cocktail fodder.

Why don't we forget the entire Junior A system, with its arguably criminal, labour law breaking, indefensible, archaic, education-



Ross Robinson is sick of the fighting in Canadian hockey. MIDJOURNEY

inhibiting draft system that takes 16-year-old boys away from their homes, parents, families, schools and hometown friends?

The Olympics, the World Juniors, NCAA and Canadian university hockey do not allow fighting. Most of those games draw large crowds, proving that hockey fans love fast, clean games.

Games played in rinks sometimes filled with fans show us that the great Canadian inferiority complex is just plain wrong.

How many "expert" hockey people have said, "Americans won't watch hockey if there is no fighting?" Wrong, wrong and wrong.

And who can forget the great national embarrassment in 1972? The so-called Summit Series was marred by thuggish, brawling behaviour by several of our Canadian players.

Obeying a coach's instruction, Bob Clarke purposefully broke the ankle of Russian star Valeri Kharlamov with a vicious and deliberate two-handed slash.

Kharlamov was the MVP of the Soviet Championship League — so, we injured him. A clever Canadian tactic, eh? And still we were proud of "winning"?

Happily, I was in Munich working in the Olympic Village and did not even know the Summit Series was going on. Until I returned home to Canada in late September, I hadn't heard about the boorish behaviour of some of our players.

Was I the only Canadian to have missed Paul Henderson's three game-winning goals?

Hockey is a great game to play and watch, when played properly. I had so much fun as a kid and as an

oldtimer playing the game. Without The Code.

Sunday morning NOTL Wallbangers hockey, played without referees and with only the occasional donnybrook, was so much fun for so many local men. And the team showers and epic camaraderie in "the room" after the game got us ready for the hearty team breakfast at Silks Country Kitchen.

While in Israel on Christmas Day in 2015, I was enjoying lunch on a Manger Square patio in Bethlehem. Only 20 minutes and two shekels on the public bus from Jerusalem.

Arab soldiers were ubiquitous in their flak jackets and burgundy berets, most armed with long and loaded rifles. Subtly surveying the scene.

My new pal Mousa asked me how I stayed so fit. I mentioned tennis and moderate quantities of Canadian

beer. And twice weekly oldtimers hockey.

He loudly exclaimed, with his Palestinian accent, "Hockey. All they are doing is fighting each other!"

Sad, folks, but that's the image many people around the world have of Canada. On TV, they see the NHL highlights, often showing out-of-control, bloody brawls.

Isn't it sad but true, that many otherwise qualified hockey linesmen don't get jobs because they are not big enough, or strong enough, to break up the frequent fights, scrums and facewashes. In some games, after almost every whistle.

Springbok and All Blacks rugby is as tough, or tougher, than hockey. No fights. Why? It's against the rules. Play hard, do your best and meet in the pub later for beers.

I don't watch professional or Junior A hockey for three reasons. The puck is too small and hard to follow. The fighting and violence is sad and embarrassing.

And, the players move too fast. I played the game, and often wonder how people who didn't play can follow it.

A friend came to watch a Wallbangers game a few years ago and commented later it had been fun to be able to follow the action. "Slow motion hockey was great."

I quit hockey during the pandemic. With some of the younger guys, I often felt like a pylon.

I'm done with Canadian hockey. Get rid of The Code and the fighting.

There. At last. I have vented.

St. Davids' **Kaige Zhu** wins singles title at U12 tourney

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Adam Wodz started as a tennis instructor and co-ordinator at the NOTL Tennis Club only three weeks ago — and this past weekend he oversaw a successful major tournament at Memorial Park.

Niagara-on-the-Lake hosted the club's first Ontario Tennis Association tournament, featuring 17 under-12 boys and three U12 girls.

Competitors travelled to NOTL from around the province and as far away as Montreal for the Nike Transition Tour event.

Two Niagara-on-the-Lake club players competed and Kaige Zhu of St. Davids won the boys singles title, dropping only three games over eight sets en route to the championship.

He defeated David Rusu-Dan 6-0, 6-1 in the final.

Club spokesperson Hugh Dow noted that Rusu-Dan had a "memorable match" in the boys semifinal.

It lasted almost two-and-a-half hours and



Jeremy Pukhkalov, left, and Kaige Zhu, right. Zhu, a resident of St. Davids won the boys singles title in the U12 tournament on Saturday, dropping only three games over eight sets en route to the championship. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

ended with a third-set tie-breaker.

Rusu-Dan took the match 3-6, 7-6, 10-7 over Youssef Kanoun.

The NOTL club's Jeremy Pukhkalov, who lives in St. Catharines, won the consolation title.

In the girls competition, Rosie Kowalewski from Grimsby was the champion and Elena Vamoser of Oakville was runner-up.

The participants ranged in age from 8 to 12 and "their overall skill level was impressive," said Dow, "with many engaging in long rallies, using a variety of spins and tactics. Their young legs enabled remarkable court coverage."

Club president Marilyn Francis said it was "very gratifying" to see the young players in action.

"Our club is committed to developing junior tennis both locally and through events such as this," she said.

Wodz, the newest staff member of the NOTL club, said he has been playing tennis his entire life.

"I competed in OTA tournaments like this myself, many of them. I was ranked top 10 in Ontario at one time," he said.

After an injury, he began teaching tennis, which brought him to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Scarborough.

Wodz, 22, was playing in clinics last year when the club's head pro approached him to run some youth events.

He added that it was a "perfect storm of an opportunity," where he fell in love with the town and NOTL needed young people to

liven up the tennis club for kids interested in playing.

"I have a lot of experience running events with kids. I've operated a Boy Scout troop for the last six years," he said.

The club has another youth OTA tournament coming up on June 9 for rookie players.

Along with leading the youth tournaments, Wodz's co-ordinator role has him working for both the club and the coaching staff.

"I do lessons, a little bit of maintenance. I do any events that they need done, any drop-in clinics, any drop-in doubles, that kind of thing," he said.

While Wodz is in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the summer, he is excited to take on being the face of the club as a young new member of the community.

He said everyone in town has been welcoming and accommodating during his first few weeks.

"I do this kind of thing in Toronto as well, where I coached at a club during the school year. People don't send thank you emails in Toronto and I've gotten a lot of thank you emails here," he joked.

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Hockey petition aims to eliminate barriers

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A petition started in Niagara-on-the-Lake is calling for the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and various Niagara associations to give more developing players who reside outside of larger centres in the region the chance to play at the highest levels.

“Talented young athletes from smaller centres like Niagara-on-the-Lake, Thorold, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Pelham and Welland are limited by their geographic boundaries,” states the petition, created by Sean Simpson, a NOTL pharmacist and hockey dad.

At the centre of the issue is the designation known as an “import player.”

“If they don’t make AAA for Niagara North or Southern Tier, they’re forced to compete for only three available (import) spots per team on AA teams in larger centres like Niagara Falls or

St. Catharines.”

“This is not just unfair,” he added. “It’s detrimental to their development as players.”

While discussing the issue in further detail with The Lake Report at his Virgil pharmacy, Simpson said where it becomes a detriment is when young players who are good enough to play at the AA level are cut from teams simply because of the large talent pool across Niagara.

In other words, a player may be good enough to play AA, but is left off a team because it already has its quota of three import players.

The only option for that player then is to play back in their home jurisdiction.

NOTL is a B-centre community, meaning players from here — and those in their smaller home communities as well — that should be playing AA hockey but don’t make those teams are now playing A or B level hockey.

Simpson’s 12-year-old son is one of those NOTL players who made a AA team in St. Catharines last season.

“We had a great experience,” said Simpson. “The team was really competitive and he was with kids that were all, more or less, at the same level as him.”

He made the jump after his NOTL B team had a very successful season the year before.

A few other NOTL players from that team two years ago also made AA or AAA teams in Niagara Falls or St. Catharines last season — however, there were even more from NOTL who should have been selected, said Simpson.

“The problem again, getting back to the import rules, is there are three or four other kids who should have been playing higher level hockey and they couldn’t,” he said.

“You could see at tryouts that they are good enough — their skating is good, but there is just no spots for

them,” he said.

“But some people will tell you — and I think in our case St. Catharines isn’t the same, but in Niagara Falls definitely — there were kids playing AA hockey that didn’t belong.”

Simpson’s petition is calling for partnerships among Niagara minor hockey jurisdictions.

The petition wants the region’s various hockey associations to come up with an agreement that gives “access to AA hockey in Niagara, bypassing the current restrictions imposed by the non-resident player system.”

“For the kids who love hockey and want to play, we need to give them the best set of circumstances for them to excel,” said Simpson.

“And (at levels) where they are going to have the most fun.”

As of May 22, the petition had garnered 617 signatures. Its goal is to gather 1,000 names.

wright@niagaranow.com

NOTL hockey dad Sean Simpson in front of a picture of the NOTL B team his son played for two years ago. Simpson is circulating a petition that is calling to allow more NOTL players to make the jump to higher levels of minor hockey. RICHARD WRIGHT


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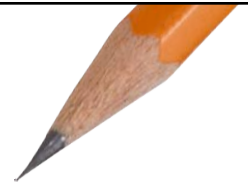
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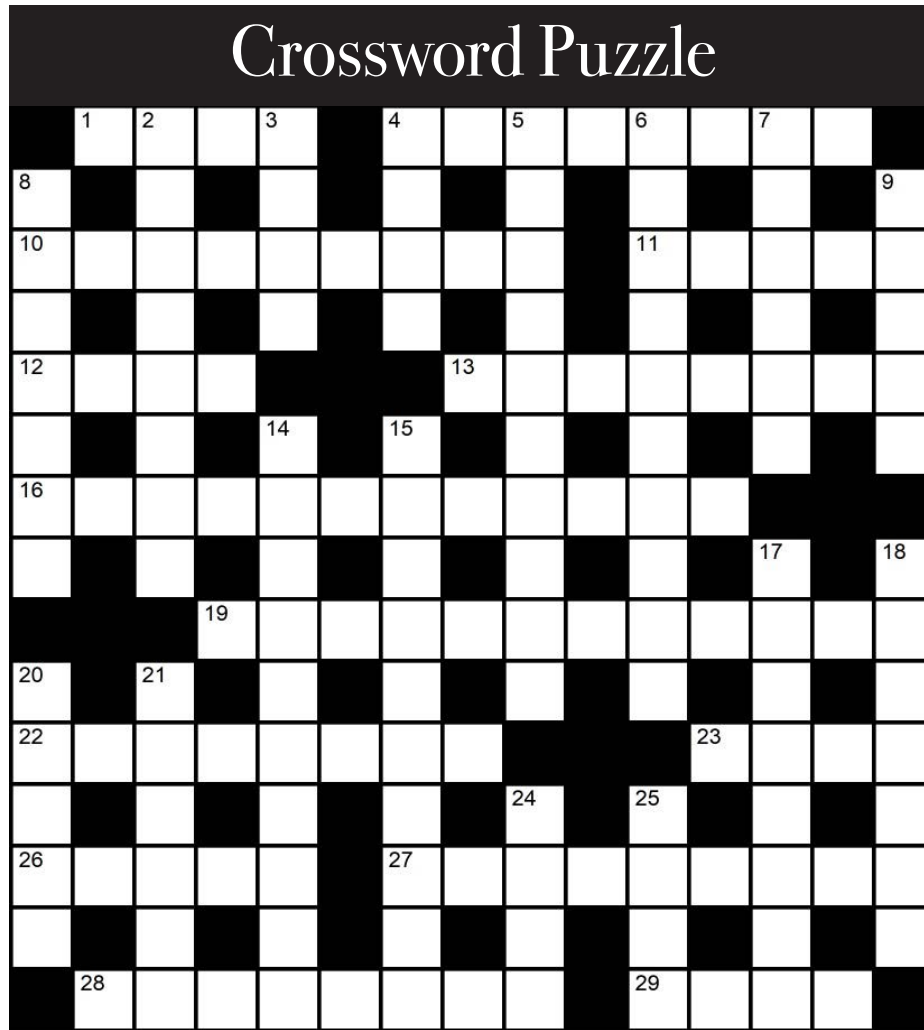


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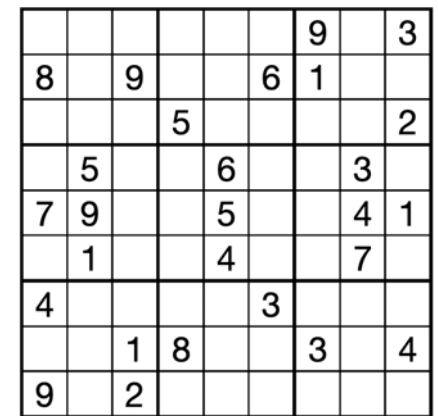
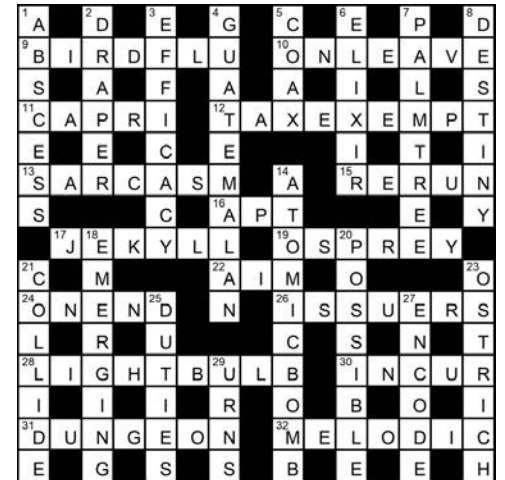
Have some fun



- Across**
- Key of the "New World" Symphony (1,3)
 - Where the 4.50 from Paddington departed (8)
 - Ejected (6,3)
 - Plunder (5)
 - Brings up the rear (4)
 - Hidden from view (8)
 - Import (12)
 - Land imbecile in trouble for exercising artefact (8,4)
 - Torpor (8)
 - "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's --- ..." (1,3)
 - Tenor violin (5)
 - Alcohol (3,6)
 - Speculative enterprises (8)
 - Delhi wrap (4)
- Down**
- Property debt (8)
 - Latest (4)
 - A "bear of very little brain" (4)
 - Tyrannical (10)
 - Implausible (3-7)
 - Pay back (6)
 - Smart (7)
 - Geared up (5)
 - Completely opposed in argument (5,5)
 - Tomorrow's celebrity (6,4)
 - Real thug out for the best medicine? (8)
 - Criticized severely (7)
 - Work like a dog (5)
 - "Lawrence of Arabia" lead actor (6)
 - "I don't mind --- , Except as meals ... " (Ogden Nash) (4)
 - Sleep restlessly (4)



Last issue's answers



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Who should we trust to **protect** our seniors?

Continued from Front Page

clude those closest at hand, such as health care workers in the home or nursing homes, and, perhaps worst of all, those most trusted by the elderly — close members of the family.

And we haven't even touched on the vulnerability of the elderly to those who seek through faked identity phone calls or fake emails, access to bank accounts, passwords and more.

Roughly one-third to one-half of seniors over the age of 80 suffer from some measure of cognitive decline and memory loss. Working together, they can impair the ability to keep track of financial transactions, whether it's paying bills or making investment decisions.

And worse, many seniors, because of increasing frailty and cognitive issues, become more dependent on others to help them manage their homes and finances. Here lies the rub: are those who provide the support responsible and honest?

Most of the time things work out. In the case of my

mother-in-law there was nothing wrong with her wit.

To her end, she was sharp and savvy enough to manage her financial affairs but eventually too tired and short-winded because of progressive heart failure to get out to her favourite bank and teller.

She wisely transferred power of attorney for her finances and day-to-day transactions to her trusted daughter. Even so, being the good bookkeeper that she was, she kept track of what was going on with her accounts and investments until almost the day she died two years later.

Unfortunately, that isn't how it works out for some. In the time that I lived in Boston I witnessed several examples of financial and emotional abuse from close family.

One woman in her mid-60s lived alone and developed Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).

Eventually, she had considerable trouble making herself understood, which prompted her two children to take her to court to transfer power of attorney for



financial affairs to them.

Hence they had the ability to sell her home in Newton in what was a very hot and lucrative real estate market.

The judge clearly saw there was nothing wrong with her mind and quashed what would have been a financial windfall for her children and a disaster for their mother.

This and other examples, including several with which I'm familiar in Niagara and Hamilton, remind me that even close family members sometimes can't

be trusted when they see an easy path to supplementing their income with a series of "loans" that cumulatively may bankrupt their aging loved ones.

One friend was taken advantage of for almost 10 years. The trouble in her case was that initially she couldn't bring herself to believe that her daughter had any intention of stealing and even when she later cottoned on, she was reluctant to say anything for fear of embarrassment, physical or psychological harassment.

Even when the evidence of fraud may be obvious, the guilty party can be let off the hook with various excuses and forgiven again, again and yet again.

This may get to the point where the slow drip-drip from so many withdrawals leave the senior bereft and now dependent on others for support in their final years. It's an all-too-common tragedy.

Thus, the wealth garnered by a generation or two may pass unchecked because of the avarice of a child, a rela-

tive or friend and because the senior is unable — usually for cognitive reasons or unwilling or both — to step in.

Without a responsible honest overseer, those life savings and assets can evaporate unless those best placed to pick up the first wisps of financial abuse (bankers, investment counsellors, brokers and estate lawyers), sound the alarm.

Fortunately, in Canada and many U.S. states bankers and investment counsellors are now required to report any suspicious financial activity.

It's about time. Those standing on guard for their parents or grandparents bear a special responsibility to look after them — as they would have others look after themselves when the time comes.

That's part of the Golden Rule, applied to seniors, and indeed the vulnerable at any age.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.



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Queen's Royal Hotel

This photograph shows the Queen's Royal Hotel from a location near the end of King Street. Opening in 1869, the Royal Niagara, as it was first called, was built with money received from the county after the relocation of the courthouse to St. Catharines. The first-class hotel became the destination of choice for those who wanted to escape the confines of the city and enjoy a peaceful time by the lake. It was one of the finest hotels in North America. The hotel later changed its name to the Queen's Royal Hotel. The hotel became the victim of a rollercoaster economy based on tourism. Advancements in roads and cars led to the demise of the Queen's Royal in 1927 and the building was demolished in 1930. Queen's Royal Park, five private residences and the NOTL Golf Club now occupy the area where the hotel grounds once were. In the foreground of the photograph are the bathhouse and the boathouses. The boathouses were owned by John Redhead. Visitors to the hotel and locals could rent boats and enjoy some leisure time in the Niagara River. As many as 45 boats could be out at one time. In the distance to the far right is Fort Mississauga.

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Farmer's market season has arrived

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

One of Niagara-on-the-Lake's summer mainstays will open this weekend with The Market at the Village beginning its 18th season on Saturday, May 25.

"We are so happy that winter is over and we can get our community back out on Saturday mornings," said one of the market's administrators Brienne Hawley.

With everything from fresh seasonal produce, potted and hanging plants, flowers, preserves, breads, cheeses, sweets, and even health and beauty products, the market features something for everyone from Niagara-only vendors.

"We are considered a true farmer's market," she said. "That means that 100 per cent of our farmers are from the Niagara Region. We have been vetted by the region. We send a list of our vendors to the Niagara



Ken Bartel of Bartel Farms is a regular vendor at the Market at the Village. FILE

Region and they look it over and give us the seal of approval that we are a true farmer's market."

Opening at 8 a.m. Saturday at 111 Garrison Village Drive in the parking lot in front of Garrison House restaurant, the annual foods and fun gala runs to 1 p.m. weekly right through to October 5.

It features spaces to sit, visit, and eat with a side-

walk chalk area for children and is dog friendly.

"All of our vendors are excited to see all of their returning customers and we are so looking forward to bringing local foods to local hands in the community," said Hawley.

With space for 20-plus vendors, the Market consistently sees between 11 and 14 merchants each week, depending on the season.

Hawley is encouraging anyone in Niagara who would like to secure a booth at the market to make contact via its website and fill out a vendor application.

"We want to keep creating a wonderful community space for everyone to get together on a Saturday morning and enjoy the fruits of everyone's labour," she said.

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Gardening with a twist of lime



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

It is that time of year when we start to move out onto our patios to enjoy the great outdoors.

Our minds turn to hosting barbeques with friends and family with great-tasting food.

Any favourite recipe, whether you have something on the grill, or your best salad or preferred drink is always enhanced with a twist of lime.

Using lime will add a brightness to a dish, bringing out colours and flavours.

So, what does this have to do with gardening?

I was reminded this week, as I was putting together several pots of annuals, that adding in plants with lime or chartreuse foliage will always enhance your container combinations.

In a shadier location lime-coloured plants will brighten and lighten a darker space.

Adding plants with chartreuse foliage will also help to make all the other colours stand out stronger – the purple will be more purple, the reds more vibrant etc.

Lemony lime colours will make the summer garden pop.

It is so refreshing to walk into a garden where there are lime coloured accents placed around the garden.

Here are some are some plants that will give your container plantings a boost with a twist of lime.

Part shade: three to five hours of sun

Coleus

Coleus is one of the tried-and-tested annuals for a part shade location.

There have always been varieties with many colour combinations, but now there



Yellow potato vine is one of the most popular cascading plants for containers, best used in larger containers. JOANNE YOUNG

are even more choices than ever — from pure lime colour to every combination possible.

Now, there are even dwarf varieties with very fine textured leaves.

Coleus is the workhorse of containers for part shade.

Golden creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia 'Aurea')

Golden creeping Jenny is a great trailing plant for part shade to full sun.

Like most plants with coloured foliage, it will lose some of its colour in a heavier shade.

Golden creeping Jenny is actually a perennial groundcover but works well in containers.

Its leaf has a finer texture that will contrast nicely with larger flowers or leaves.

Hostas

There is no reason why you cannot include perennials into your container plantings.

Hostas are a great choice for a part shade to shade location.

The large leaves of the hosta make it a good focal point.

They also can look impressive grown on its own as a solitary plant.

There are so many different varieties to choose from, but some that stand out for their lime colour are

“August Moon,” “Sum & Substance,” “Fire Island,” and Shadowland’s “Coast To Coast.”

Lime coralbells (Heuchera)

Another perennial that does well in in a pot in a part shade location is lime coralbells.

The large, rounded, ruffled leaves also add a textural element to your plant collection.

When paired with a bright-coloured impatiens or begonias, you have an automatic winning combination.

Variiegated English ivy (Hedera)

Variiegated English ivy will grow successfully in shade to full sun.

In a container, it will spill over the rim of the container.

It can also be trained on a trellis, obelisk or other framework to make a topiary form.

Full sun: six plus hours of sun

Sedum

Low-growing sedums are a great choice for pots in full sun as they will tolerate a hot and dry situation.

Lime colour varieties such as Angelina and lemon ball sedum have very fine leaves and will trail over the edge of the container.

Sedum works well in a succulent planter as well.

Limelight licorice plant (Helichrysum petiolare 'Limelight')

Limelight licorice plant does best in full sun but will tolerate a light shade.

This trailing annual can be used in containers, hanging baskets and window boxes.

Its bright lemon-yellow foliage will brighten any arrangement.

Jewels-of-Opar (Talinum paniculatum)

Jewels-of-Opar is a little-known annual with bright chartreuse leaves.

The leaves grow to be about fourteen inches tall with the flower stems extending to 20 inches tall.

The plant in mainly grown for its foliage but does produce tall stalks of tiny pink flowers.

Lime potato vine (Ipomoea batatas)

Lime potato vine is one of the most popular cascading plants for containers.

Its large, heart-shaped leaves fill in quickly.

Best used in larger containers as it can be overwhelming in a small pot.

As you are planting up your containers, don't forget that a twist of lime makes everything better.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.

Obituary

Ranjit Ahluwalia



AHLUWALIA, Ranjit Singh Dr. — Dr. Ranjit Singh Ahluwalia died peacefully, surrounded by family, on May 15th, 2024 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. ‘The Doc’, was born in 1928 in Nairobi, Kenya. He studied medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland before returning to Nairobi to begin practice. He met Barbara, his beloved wife of

63 years, at the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi. The young couple lived in England and Scotland before finally settling in Niagara-on-the-Lake where they raised their 5 children. Ranjit was an accomplished athlete; he and Barbara were avid travelers and consummate hosts.

Ranjit is survived by Barbara, his wife. His 5 children; Gian (Rikki Tollenaere), Rajinder (Kristie Ross), Amrit (Katherine Pye), Kamla (Simon Richard), and Baldev. His 4 grandchildren; Ben, Madeline, Joseph, and Evelyn. Also, his sister Sheil and brother Inderjit.

The entire family is extremely grateful to all the staff at Upper Canada Lodge, particularly those in the Virgil Unit, for their dedicated care and friendship over the past two years.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to save the African Elephant through the World Wildlife Fund at: wwf.ca.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



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Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

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amplifon

Get Back to the Track

127th Racing Season Begins

Tuesday, May 28

First Race 4:30 p.m.

Free Opening Day T-shirt giveaway to the first 2,000 fans, with program purchase.

Free concert after the races featuring Revive the Rose

Sponsored by Marge Ott & Casey Langelaan, Revel Realty



FREE ADMISSION & PARKING
All ages welcome



- ### Upcoming Events
- Tues. May 28 - Opening Day features free concert with Revive the Rose
 - Sun. June 16 - Father's Day racing
 - Mon. July 1 - Family Day fun & FELRC 15th Anniversary celebration
 - Tues. July 2 - Free concert after racing features The Figure Four
 - Sun. July 7 - Sunday Races, Fort Foodie Fest
 - Tues. July 16 - Free concert after racing features Cottage Brew
 - Sun. July 21 - Wiener Dog Races after horse racing ends
 - Tues. July 30 - Free concert after racing features Westwind
 - Tues. August 6 - Free concert features Strictly Hip
 - Sun. August 18 - Corgi & Basset Hound Races, after horse racing ends
 - Tues. August 20 - Free concert after racing features Dust 'n Bones
 - Mon. September 2 - Labour Day and Puss n Boots Cup
 - Tues. Sept. 10 - Prince of Wales Stakes
 - Mon. Oct. 14 - Track-O-Lantern, Kids trick-or-treat for free candy
 - Tues. Oct. 22 - Closing Day, fan appreciation giveaways



Enjoy a delicious meal with a spectacular view of the races. Open every race day.

Reservations recommended.
905-871-3200 Ext. 3617
reservations@forterieracetrack.ca

OPENING DAY DONATION DRIVE:
Donations of food and personal items like toothpaste or shampoo are being collected in support of Strong Fort Erie Neighbourhoods




Wiener Dog Races July 21

Corgi & Basset Hound Races August 18

The silliest races at Fort Erie Race Track are back this season! This fun, non-wagering event takes place after horse racing ends. Info about how to register your pet is available on our website.

89th Prince of Wales Stakes

Tuesday, September 10

The 2nd Jewel in the Canadian Triple Crown and Fort Erie Race Track's signature event. Featuring Canada's top three-year-old thoroughbreds.



2024 Racing Schedule

May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
													1
							2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September							October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		





Angelika & ASSOCIATES
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| MAIN HOUSE PLUS COACH HOUSE

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HIGHLY DESIRABLE DEAD-END STREET



**368 QUEEN ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

**5 PINE ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

SEASONAL WATER VIEWS
4 BED 2 BATH | \$1,389,000

APPROX 3500 SF OF HIGH-END
FINISHED LIVING SPACE | \$1,695,000



OPEN HOUSE SAT, MAY 25TH 2-4

**47 RICARDO ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

**4 MERITAGE LN,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

MAIN FLOOR PRIMARY BEDROOM | 2633 SF
CUSTOM BUILT HOME | \$1,998,000

SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION | 2 + 3
BEDROOM 3 FULL BATHS



**507 MISSISSAUGA ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

**556 KING ST #16,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

APPROX. 2879 TOTAL FINISHED SF | THOUSANDS IN RENOS
\$1,498,000



5 LOWER CANADA, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



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- ☑ **LIST OF TORONTO BUYERS BUYING IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**